

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

John Stevenson, Director, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services  
Renee Cicone, Deputy Director, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services  
Keith Zirkle, Family Services Program Manager, Division of Family Services  
Eric McLaurin, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services  
Michelle Darling, Chief of Community Services, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services  
Leann Summa, DYRS Director's Office  
Tim Brandau, Executive Director, Child Inc.  
Nikeshia Sanders, DYRS  
Sean Waynant, DYRS  
Raheem Perkins, DYRS  
Angela Porter, DSCYF/Education  
Mary Andrews, PIC  
Kathleen Covelli-Reyes, CSD  
Tricia Lyons, YOO  
Elizabeth Hoffman, DYRS Director's Office  
Corry Wright,

Meeting began with general opening remarks at 9:05am.

**Welcome**

Director John Stevenson welcomed the group and each member introduced themselves.

**Resilience Education Case Study – Tricia Lyons**

YOO has been working on their case study program, which they aim to launch with YRS in the spring. They are currently recruiting youth to participate and need 6 to start the program, while they are hoping for 10 recruits. There will be 11 case studies and youth will meet twice a week to discuss real life problems that are pertinent to youth their age. They will work out practical solutions to these problems as a group. YOO has partnered with the mayor's office and the mayor has committed to jobs for the youth after successful completion. After successful completion, youth will be awarded a certificate of completion, presented by DYRS. Jane Lyons sent the curriculum to John, Renee, and Michelle. Youth will require an 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level to participate. Youth from Ferris, Cottages and those on probation are ideal candidates for the program.

**Career Fair Update – Renee Ciconte**

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, DYRS held a Career Fair to assist in filling the 29 new positions that were awarded by the General Assembly. 27 of the positions are Youth Rehabilitation Counselor (YRC) positions and 2 are YRC Supervisor positions. The day offered interview panels, informational sessions, walk-in application help, facility tours, and more. 8 interview panels were assembled and 94 interviews were scheduled to be conducted that day. DYRS is currently working on the on-boarding process for those candidates that were selected. Most of the positions being filled are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift. DFS will also be hosting a Career Fair to assist in filling the 30 positions they were awarded.

**Informational Town Hall Follow-up – John Stevenson**

Recently the Residential Cottages and several AWOLS that struck concern with the local communities. In response to this, Director Stevenson hosted an informational town hall for residents of the community. In attendance were legislators and a couple community members. Those in attendance voiced their concerns with the AWOLS and shared with DYRS what they would like done in the event this happens in the future, as many are not receiving the reverse 911 call and find the State police helicopter involvement alarming. State police are looking into why residents are not receiving the reverse 911 call and DYRS is looking into other notification systems that would provide residents with instant notification of these events.

Residents feel that DYRS should be sounding the alarm in the event there are AWOLS from the Residential Cottages. Director Stevenson shared the negative effects of sounding the alarm in this scenario so the community was aware of the possible implications. While the implications were understood, the community still felt the alarm was necessary. DYRS is exploring the possibility of distinct alarm sounds for different scenarios. Director Stevenson plans to attend upcoming civic meetings to hear more from the community and will make a determination on what next steps are.

**DCJ Risk & Decision Making Classes at NCCDC – Corry Wright**

DCJ is bringing a new program to NCCDC that teaches youth crucial life skills. The program is designed with an open enrollment and has an ongoing 10 week curriculum, allowing youth to participate regardless of their length of stay. Each week a new skill is offered. The programming focuses on risk factors, what they are, and how they can be avoided, while allowing the youth to explore other choices to their behavior and teaching the impact that their actions have on others and how others treat them. The program will be offered on weekends, as this is the time that youth need programming. The program will begin as soon as the contract has been settled.

**Programmatic Changes at Detention Centers – Renee Ciconte**

With youth staying with YRS until sentencing, creating longer stays, it was necessary to address the programming in the facilities. Current providers were asked to modify their programs to adjust for the needs and time frames of youth in detention facilities. Some providers have responded by modifying current closed programming to be open-ended. Kind to Kids and DCJ

have made efforts to create a program where youth can receive valuable life skills and information during their stay, even if short.

#### **Recidivism Rate & SEC – John Stevenson**

John and Renee met with SAC to discuss the 2012-2016 DYRS recidivism rate, which measures the Division's success. SAC rates show that recidivism and population are down, with is mainly due to good front end diversion work. SAC noticed a notable decrease in DYRS youth population but was not aware that YAP was introduced. Reporting tends to be screwed due to low population numbers and DYRS is trying to find other areas in which we can be measured for success.

#### **YRS Planning Day – John Stevenson**

Recently the DYRS management team attended a week long training in Georgetown. Director Stevenson announced that a DYRS Planning day is being planned to address the areas the Division would like to invigorate, based off operational need and areas address during the Georgetown training. Some of the topics to be addressed include PAC, family engagement, trauma informed care, re-entry, programming, and staffing. Changes are already being made to PAC, including restructuring the committee and PAC meeting in a manner that makes sense and including staff from other areas in the PAC decision making process to ensure all youth needs are met.

Committees will be making recommendations to restructure each area to obtain better outcomes for our youth. Planning day is scheduled for the end of October with the anticipated beginning of rollout in early 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48.

Next meeting:           December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
                                  9 – 11am  
                                  Multi-Purpose Facility  
                                  1825 Faulkland Road  
                                  Wilmington, DE 19805